

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2014

Contact: Craig Ackerman
352-629-0137, ext. 2052
Craig.Ackerman@FLHealth.gov

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOTS AT SPECIAL CLINICS

Department offering vaccines at Back to School Bash and special Ocala clinics to help get children ready to start school on time

OCALA—The Florida Department of Health in Marion County is offering special back-to-school immunization clinics in August to help students get ready for school.

“Vaccines provide the best defense to protect you and your family from the spread of infectious diseases,” said Jan Stepp, Immunization Clinic supervisor for the Florida Department of Health in Marion County. “We want to give parents every opportunity to get their kids ready for the school year by taking advantage of our immunization services before school starts.”

The Department will offer free school vaccinations at the Marion County Children's Alliance **Back-to-School Bash**. The event is scheduled for **10 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday, August 9 at the E.D. Croskey Recreation Center**, 1510 NW 4th Street, Ocala. In addition to school immunizations, the event includes fun and games, food, and free backpacks for school. For information on the Back to School Bash, call 352-438-5990.

The Department of Health has scheduled special back-to-school immunization clinics **8 a.m.–4 p.m. August 4–8 August 11–15 and August 18–20 at the Department's Ocala facility**, 1801 SE 32nd Avenue. No appointment is needed, and the immunizations are free for those ages 18 and younger. Parents should bring their child's immunization records if they have them.

New health requirements mean that children may need an additional polio vaccination before they can enter kindergarten. Children entering seventh grade require the Tdap—tetanus diphtheria and acellular pertussis—booster vaccine. Vaccination requirements include:

- **Kindergarten through sixth grade:** two doses of the varicella vaccine
- **Grades seven through 12:** one dose of the varicella vaccine
- **Grades seven through 12:** the Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) vaccine
- **Students entering a Florida school for the first time** should have two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

For information on immunizations, call the Department at 352-629-0137, ext. 2017.

The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](https://twitter.com/HealthyFla) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HealthyFla). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

###

Florida Department of Health

Marion County
1801 SE 32nd Avenue, PO Box 2408 • Ocala, Florida 34478
PHONE: 352/629-0137 • FAX 352/694-1613

MarionCoHealth.com

TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh